



NOCCALULA - - -

The Waterfall Within A City



L.D. FLOYD

Drawings by L. D. Floyd

A Welcome to the

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

From

CITY OF GADSDEN

Hugh S. Patterson, Mayor
S. D. Lasseter, Assoc. Comm.
Cecil Weatherbee, Assoc. Comm.

GADSDEN And ETOWAH COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Taylor Boyd, President
Harold Laubscher, Manager

History tells us that although Alabama was admitted to the Union in 1819, the Cherokee Indians remained in this section until 1833.

The Moragne and the Hughes families were the first white settlers, and it was they who founded, upon the West bank of the Coosa River, the village that was to grow into the Gadsden of today.

County records show that in 1845 Thomas McClung owned forty acres surrounding the falls, known then simply as The Falls of Black Creek. As this was only ten years after the Indians gave up their rights, we assume that Thomas McClung had a grant from the Government.

In 1870 this forty acres and some additional land came into possession of G. O. Baker of Dallas County, whose family held the property until 1909 when it was bought by R. A. Mitchell, who was once Mayor of Gadsden (elected 1895) and who said that he would hold the property until such time as the City of Gadsden could buy it.

Through Mr. Mitchell's generosity Gadsden now owns his purchase of 169 acres, bought some time after his death, from his daughter Mrs. Sadie Elmore, of Montgomery. To this has been added 80 acres, making a park of 249 acres of beautiful woodland, bordering both sides of the Gorge, and named Noccalula Park, as is the waterfall, for the Indian maiden who has become a legend.

Across the street from the park stands the school named in honor of R. A. Mitchell, who years ago saw a need from which Gadsden profits today; and can claim the distinction of being "the only city with a waterfall."